ing 1991-92 and remaining applicants are planned to be provided connections progressively during 8th Plan.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. 12 stations have already been provided with STD facility during the current year. Over 40 more stations are proposed to be provided with STD facility during remaining part of 91-92.

(e) Draft 8th Plan proposals relating to expansion and modernisation of telephone exchanges for the Kerala telecom Circle envisage.

growth of network to bring down the waiting period for exchanges over 5000 lines on an average to one year and less than 5000 lines to practically on demand.

Replacement of life expired switching equipment with electronic equipment.

Provision of 60 Kms. of ducting.

Induction of digital equipment in the local network to the extent of 94% of the total equipment.

Gold Deposits in Kerala

599. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in the Nilambur area of Kerala to find out the gold and mineral deposits; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Kerala Mineral Exploration and Development Project (KMEDP) of the State Government have conducted investigations both for primary and placer gold in Nilambur area of Kerala. GSI has also carried out survey for iron ore at Korattimala about 16 kilometres North-East of Nilambur.

(b) *Gold*: Detailed exploration for primary gold by KMEDP at Maruda in Nilambur has proved a reserve of 0.5 million tonnes of auriferous reef with average grade of 4 grams per tonne.

Detailed exploration for placer gold in Chaliyar-Punnapuzha river beds has proved 2.5 million tonnes of auriferous gravels having a grade of 0.1 gram/cubic metres.

Iron Ore: A reserve of 4.63 million tonnes of iron ore has been estimated by GSI at Korattimala about 16 kilometres North-East of Nilambur.

Diplomatic Relations with Fiji

600. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has diplomatic relations with Fiji;

(b) whether the people of Indian origin are being treated as second class citizens in that country; and

(c) if so, the fresh initiatives being taken by the Union Government to restore their democratic rights?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. Although our Mission in Suva was closed on 24th May, 1990, we have not broken diplomatic relations with Fiji.

(b) The illegal Constitution promulgated by decree on 25th July, 1990 has provisions discriminating against Fijians of Indian origin.

(c) The Government of India is pursuing the matter vigorously at concerned UN organisations and Human Rights bodies. It has been raised every year at the sessions of the UN General Assembly since the coups in 1987, at the 1990 session of the Human Rights Sub-Commission for Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and 1991 session of the Human Rights Commission.

India continues to oppose the re-entry of Fiji into the Commonwealth.

Discrimination against Fijians of Indian origin is repeatedly raised with concerned countries at the bilateral level.

The Government also maintains active contact with the leadership of the ousted Fiji Labour Party—National Federation Party Coalition which also includes the elected representatives of Fijians of Indian origin.

Polavaram Multi-purpose Project

601. SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal relating to the Polavaram Multi-purpose Project is pending with the Union Government for clearance; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Two project reports for the Polavaram Dam and left bank canal on the river Godavari in Andhra Pradesh and the Right bank canal were received separately in April, 1983 and March, 1984 respectively. After taking an overall view in December, 1987 on both the proposals together, it was seen that there are basic deficiencies about reliable water availability, conjunctive use of ground water, sedimentation studies, soil surveys, concurrence of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh Governments for submerging their areas and clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The project was therefore, considered unacceptable for further processing and was returned to the State Government. The State Government , was required to submit a combined modified project report for appraisal at the Centre. In July, 1990 only updated cost estimate was submitted by the State Government. In August, 1990 need for complete modification of the report was again reiterated by the Commission.

Modernisation of Krishna Irrigation Canal System

602. SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has forwarded a scheme for modernisation of the Krishna Irrigation Canal System;

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard so far;

(c) whether the scheme has been posed for external assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) A scheme for modernisation of Krishna Delta Irrigation System estimated to cost Rs. 99.67 crores was originally received in the Central Water Commission in September, 1979. In compliance of the observations of the appraising agencies, the State Government resubmitted modified and updated report estimated to cost Rs. 425 crores in December, 1985. The project envisages re-modelling and lining of irrigation canals, replacement of old structures, construction of new structures, re-modelling of drainage system in the command, conjunctive use of ground water, improvement of communication facilities and changes in cropping pattern and operation for better management. Even this project report was found wanting in respect of utilisation of water in excess of allocation by the Tribunal, inclusion of cost of utilisation of ground and recycled water in project estimates, soil survey of command water logging and salinity. Therefore, the project has been returned to the State Government in December, 1988 to comply with the observations, modify and resubmit updated project report.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.